

12.6 Mid-Western Regional Youth Council

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY SERVICES
TO 20 MARCH 2019 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400067, COS300610

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager, Community Services on the Mid-Western Regional Youth Council;**
2. **note the minutes of the Mid-Western Regional Youth Council meeting convened on 12 February 2019;**
3. **re-confirm the appointment of continuing Youth Councillors Angus Blackwell, Courtney Boxsell, Angus Danson, Nicola Hayes-Weber, Lucah Hill, Brody Munday, Ayden Seis and Daniel Trevethan;**
4. **endorse Angus Danson as Mid-Western Regional Youth Mayor;**
5. **endorse Lucah Hill as Mid-Western Regional Deputy Youth Mayor; and**
6. **endorse the updated Mid-Western Regional Youth Council Terms of Reference.**

Executive summary

This report seeks to inform Council of Youth Council discussions and activities.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

The Youth Council coordinated a number of activities over the summer school holidays for local youth, including an afternoon event at Kandos Pool, escape room challenges in the Mudgee Town Hall Theatre and a bicycle/skate event in partnership with Birrang Enterprise. The Youth Council is now commencing planning for future school holiday events, as well as Youth Week 2019.

Funding for Council's Youth Services Officer role has been extended for a further 12 months by KEPCO Bylong Australia.

The Youth Council election of officer bearers took place at the February 2019 meeting for the first semester of 2019. Angus Danson and Lucah Hill were elected Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor, respectively.

The Mid-Western Regional Youth Council Terms of Reference have been reviewed and are attached to this report for endorsement by Council.

Further detail of discussions by Youth Councillors, including future direction and planning, are contained within the Minutes attached to this report.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Council's Youth Strategy provides direction and recommendations for Council and the community to benefit local youth. The Mid-Western Regional Youth Council also takes direction from this document when considering future planning.

Council Policies

Not applicable.

Legislation

Not applicable.

Financial implications

Not applicable.

Associated Risks

Not applicable.

FIONA TURNER
MANAGER, COMMUNITY SERVICES

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

13 February 2019

Attachments: 1. Minutes - Mid-Western Regional Youth Council - 12 February 2019.
2. Terms of Reference - Mid-Western Regional Youth Council - April 2019.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



MINUTES OF YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: 12 February 2019
 VENUE: Mudgee Council Chambers,
 Market Street, Mudgee
 COMMENCEMENT TIME: 4:15 pm

1. ATTENDANCE

1.1. In Attendance

Youth Councillors: Angus Blackwell, Courtney Boxsell, Angus Danson, Nicola Hayes (Chair), Dylan Hayes-Weber, Lucah Hill, Ayden Seis

Councillors: Cr Sam Paine (Deputy Mayor), Councillor Alex Karavas

Council Staff: Sam Sbisa (Youth Services Officer, and Minutes), Fiona Turner (Manager, Community Services)

1.2. Apologies: Daniel Trevethan, Brody Munday

Motion: Acceptance of apologies.

Moved: A. Blackwell Seconded: A. Danson - Carried

2. MINUTES – 11 December 2018

Motion: Acceptance of minutes.

Moved: N. Hayes Seconded: A. Blackwell - Carried

3. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT

3.1. None.

4. EXISTING BUSINESS

4.1. Youth Council logo/branding

4.1.1. S Sbisa reported that the 2 pull-up banners and 2 tear drop banners have arrived. Banners were displayed in the meeting. They will be used at all future Youth Council events. (See Attachment 1)

4.2.1. As Youth Council now has its own logo, and new badges need to be ordered for new members and office bearers, it was decided to order new badges for all members and to have the Youth Council logo on them instead of the Council logo.

ACTION: S Sbisa to order new Youth Councillor badges for all members, listing first name only.

4.2. Youth Council Events

4.2.1. **Summer school holiday activities – event summary**

- Video Game Design Workshop was not able to proceed due to the small amount of lead time a facilitator was not available. Bathurst are interested in sharing costs should this be booked in the future, but they would require at least 6 weeks notice.

- Pool event on 7 January at Kandos. 10 attended (including Youth Mayor). Inclement weather may have affected attendance.

- Escape Room on 8 and 9 January in Mudgee. Plans for this were not finalised before 13 December, creating a knock on effect for advertising the YC events. Parts of the original plan did not clear the risk

assessment; L Hill rewrote the plan, but the delay meant the Tuesday sessions had to be cancelled. Overall sessions went well 3 out of 4 sessions ran with 15 attendees out of a possible 24 places. In future physical escape rooms would be better run out of The Stables due to accessibility issues.

- Bicycle/skate event with Birrang Enterprise on 17 January at Mudgee Skatepark, was held during the heatwave and this affected attendance. The start time was brought forward, but it was still over 30C by 9am. Owing to a funding issue only one workshop was run, and due to a communication issue it wasn't obvious that the session would include more than bicycles. Birrang were good to work with; professional with excellent equipment. Youth Council would be willing to work with them again in the future.
- Dungeons & Dragons Encounter [D&D] at Gulgong on 23 January. Only two Games Masters were available (but another is in training), so only 11 spaces could be offered. All spaces were booked with 10 in attendance. Feedback from the event was excellent.

4.2.2. Future 2019 school holiday activities

S Sbisa commented that planning for Youth Council events needs to be done much earlier than has been happening recently. Delays in planning cause issues with booking facilitators, and creating advertising copy; affecting advertising and attendance. Additionally MWRC Library has started planning their events for the July and October holidays and would like to know if YC would like to partner on booking some of their facilitators (there is also the possibility that with early booking Bathurst or other regional councils may like to book the same facilitators and travel charges can then be shared):

July

Ideas for holiday activities were discussed as follows:

- MWRC Library and S Sbisa have discussed booking Andrew Christie to run 3D design and printing workshops. Youth Council agreed to fund this facilitator for a youth session in July.
- Plushies and Badges session (to use available materials).
- Pop Art Bags session (to use available materials).
- L Hill suggested ice-skating. Hosting a popup rink for 2 weeks will cost significantly more than the Youth Council's available budget. F Turner suggested tabling this until later in the year and as a Community Plan Proposal for the 20/21 budget. An alternative was suggested; to exploring the option of offering a bus to the Bathurst Winter Festival for youth.

October

Ideas for holiday activities were discussed as follows:

- MWRC Library and S Sbisa are exploring booking a special effects makeup artist to run workshops. Youth Council agreed to fund this facilitator for a youth session.
- Haunted house escape room, written by Youth Councillors (possibly run at multiple locations).
- Rylstone/Kandos Family Fun Day – Dodgeball or Henna.
- Cupcake decorating with a Halloween theme.

Potential backup or January 2020 events

- Special effects makeup artist again for January
- Cross stitch
- Cosplay – S Sbisa suggested this could link to an item in general business, see 6.1.
- Bell Shakespeare Company tour

4.2.3. Youth Week 2019 (10 – 18 April 2019)

Theme has been announced: '*Coming together to Connect, Share, Speak out, and Celebrate*'. Youth Council wishes to run a variety of events across the region including:

- Laser Tag: A Danson reported PCYC are happy for Youth Council to book for Laser Tag, but an event cannot be accommodated during school holidays.
- Art competition: The entry form has been created and distributed to schools. Prizes still need to be determined. The Library have volunteered a case to be used to display the prizes.
- Flash Fiction competition: The entry form is almost finalised, and should hopefully be distributed to schools by the end of the week. Invitations to the four high schools to host a Youth Council funded writing workshop with Portia Lindsay have been sent. Mudgee High School is interested. If the

schools don't take up the offer, writing workshops will be hosted in Council buildings in Gulgong and Kandos only – providing one in Mudgee would be duplication of the Library's teens writing group.

- **Exhibition Launch:** In 2018 N Hayes proposed launching the 2019 Exhibitions with an official launch event/evening. Youth Council will attempt to do this pending sufficient entries in the competitions at least one week prior to Youth Week. It is proposed this event be held at on to the evening of Tuesday 9 April from 6:30pm – approval from the Library will be needed for this to occur.
- **Photography session:** Youth Council wish to run this event themselves, and not book a facilitator. It is proposed to run this at Kandos (preferably on 15 April) pending availability of Youth Councillors.
- **Outdoor activity:** L Hill proposed a netball workshop to run in Gulgong. S Sbisa will investigate facilitator options. Should a facilitator not be available either dodgeball, or a skatepark workshop will be run in Gulgong.
- **Town Hall Cinema:** Town Hall Cinema Committee agree to screen *Captain Marvel* over the YW weekend (12-14 April), including on the Friday night at which Youth Councillors are asked to assist. Youth Council have agreed to cover the minimum guarantee costs (expected to be \$275-330). S Sbisa contacted the Australian Classification Board and Disney; the classification of the film will not be released until a week before the film release day, so it will be a gamble as to if the film will be rated M or MA15+ (Disney believe it is unlikely it will be rated higher than M).
- **Trivia event:** Specifics of this event still need to be organised, but it was agreed to bring the start time forward to 5pm, in the hopes that more people from outside of Mudgee attend. Also prizes would no longer go to the winning team's school; hamper gifts are a potential substitute.
- **Tie dye:** It is proposed to run a tie dye session in either Mudgee or Kandos (should the photography session need to be held in Mudgee). This could also be used as a backup event should one of the other sessions not prove possible to run.
- **Youth Week Events Team:** In order to improve planning of Youth Week events, it was decided for a smaller team to meet more regularly than the scheduled monthly Youth Council meetings. The following Youth Councillors have expressed interest in being on the team: A Danson, L Hill, N Hayes, C Boxsell, and A Seis.

Action Point: S Sbisa to book venues etcetera, liaise with Library staff as to the exhibition launch, and start working on risk assessments.

Action Point: S Sbisa to investigate netball facilitator options.

Action Point: Subcommittee to meet at least once before next Youth Council meeting – S Sbisa to organise details and send out as an email to interested Youth Councillors.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

5.1. Outcome of Flying Minute

5.1.1. Letter to Gunnedah Youth Council (20.12.18). Letter was sent 2 January 2019. No reply has been received as yet.

5.2. Election of Office Bearers for first semester 2019

5.2.1. Nominations and voting for Youth Mayor

- A. Blackwell nominated A. Danson; nomination accepted.
- A. Danson was elected Youth Mayor. Congratulations to A. Danson.

5.2.2. Nominations and voting for Deputy Youth Mayor

- N. Hayes nominated L. Hill; nomination accepted
- A. Danson nominated A. Blackwell; nomination accepted
- L. Hill has been elected Deputy Youth Mayor. Congratulations to L. Hill.

5.3. Youth Services Officer / KEPCO funding

5.3.1. KEPCO Bylong has renewed funding for the Youth Services Officer position for the next 12 months (2019). As such Sam Sbisa will be continuing on in the role.

5.4. Games group

5.4.1. A. Danson commented that there was lots of positive feedback from the D&D Encounter, as evidenced from the exit surveys, and proposed that a regular games group be initiated. The Library have already expressed interest in providing a venue for such an activity. Youth Council agreed that this event should proceed, as a monthly event to start and should volunteer Games Masters be available.

ACTION: S Sbisa to organise introduction of new regular gaming group.

5.5. Australian Poetry Slam

5.5.1. S. Sbisa reported that an opportunity arose over the break to submit an Expression Of Interest to host a regional heat of the Australian Poetry Slam. As the cut-off date was 4 February, this was done on behalf of the Youth Council, in conjunction with the MWRC Library and Mudgee Readers' Festival. More details about the APS can be found at: <http://www.australianpoetryslam.com/> Specifics as to how the event will run and when, can be considered should the application prove to be successful. Youth Council was supportive of this venture.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. Anime/Games Group

6.1.1. Similar to A Danson's suggestion to host a cosplay activity S Sbisa reported that a number of youth have expressed interest in anime and manga, and as such proposes the introduction of a regular Anime Club for youth, similar to the new Games Group. This was met with support from the Youth Council.

ACTION: S Sbisa to organise introduction of new regular anime/manga group.

7. DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING

7.1.1. Tuesday 12 February 2019, Mudgee Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee.

5:44PM Meeting closed.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

TASK / ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COMPLETION
Liaise with Council staff as to the updating of Youth Councillor images to the webpage.	S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Order new Youth Council badges for all Youth Councillors.	S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Youth Week Team to meet at least once prior to next Youth Council meeting	All interested Youth Councillors, and S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Investigate and book (if applicable) Netball workshop facilitator	S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Book venues, and commence risk assessments etc. for Youth Week	S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Liaise with Library staff as to the booking of Andrew Christie and SFX makeup workshop facilitator for July and October holidays.	S Sbisa	12.03.2019
Organise introduction of regular games club.	S Sbisa	09.04.2019
Organise introduction of regular anime club.	S Sbisa	09.04.2019

Attachment 1.





YOUTH COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

*A prosperous
and progressive
community.*

Preamble

Mid-Western Regional Council appreciates the advice, voluntary time, commitment, interest and dedication of those willing to be part of the mid-western regional youth council. Recommendations from the Youth Council are welcomed and will be considered in the context of Council's management and strategic planning process.

Council Contact

The ~~Community and Youth Development Services~~ Officer is the Council contact officer for the ~~youth-Youth council~~Council.

Responsibilities

The Mid-Western Regional Youth Council will:

- Provide a forum for consultation between Council and local young people throughout the council area.
- Analyse, consider and implement the recommendations in the Youth Strategy and Community Plan for the wide ranging needs of resident youth throughout the Council area.
- ~~provide~~Provide support for youth related programs and initiatives including Youth Week.
- ~~identify~~Identify gaps in service provision for youth and provide ideas for future service delivery, events and resources.
- Connect youth with existing resources including cultural and arts resources in communities within the Council area.

Composition of Youth Council

Ideally, the Youth Council shall comprise of at least two (2) representatives of each of the high schools (including St Matthews Central School) in Gulgong, Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee together with up to four (4) delegates from the general community, including TAFE students.

Initial application to be representative on the Youth Council will be limited to local youth aged 13 to 21 years.

Councillors are also representatives on the Youth Council.

Frequency of Meetings

~~Two meetings each school term (eight meetings per year). One meeting per month (on the second Tuesday), except during January.~~

Election of Office Bearers

In order to encourage participation, Youth Council Officer Bearers (Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor) will be elected for a term of six months at the commencement of school terms 1 and 3 from term 3 2018 onwards.

Quorum

A quorum at Youth Council meetings should be half the current membership plus one however a minimum of 3 youth councillors in attendance is also considered quorum.

Delegations

Nil.

